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Agenda item 47

Macroeconomic policy questions

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Awsan **Al-Aud** (Yemen)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled:

"Macroeconomic policy questions:

"(a) International trade and development;

"(b) International financial system and development;

"(c) External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries;

"(d) Commodities"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate jointly on sub-items (b) to (d) at its 7th and 8th meetings, on 13 October 2008, and on sub-item (a) at its 25th and 26th meetings, on 5 November. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.7, 8, 25 and 26). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/63/SR.2-6). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbol A/63/412 and Add.1-4.

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Item 47 (a)
International trade and development

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-third executive session, Geneva, 3 March 2008 (A/63/15 (Part I))[1]

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-fourth special session, Geneva, 17-20 March 2008 (A/63/15 (Part II))[1]

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-fourth executive session, Geneva, 10 July 2008 (A/63/15 (Part III))[1]

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its fifty-fifth annual session, Geneva, 15-26 September 2008 (A/63/15 (Part IV))[1]

Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its twelfth session, Accra, 20-25 April 2008 (A/63/168)

Report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development (A/63/324)

Letter dated 6 October 2008 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/63/3)

Item 47 (b)
International financial system and development

Report of the Secretary-General on the international financial system and development (A/63/96)

Letter dated 6 October 2008 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/63/3)

Item 47 (c)
External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries" (A/63/181)

Letter dated 6 October 2008 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/63/3)

Item 47 (d)
Commodities

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects (A/63/267)

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[1] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/63/15).

Letter dated 6 October 2008 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/63/3)

4. At the 7th meeting, on 13 October, introductory statements were made under sub-items (b) to (d) by the Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch of the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Chief of the Debt and Development Finance Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Head of the Special Unit on Commodities of UNCTAD (see A/C.2/63/SR.7).

5. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch of the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Chief of the Debt and Development Finance Branch of UNCTAD and the Head of the Special Unit on Commodities of UNCTAD responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nigeria and Benin (see A/C.2/63/SR.7).

6. At its 25th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee heard introductory statements under sub-item (a) by the Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the President of the Trade and Development Board (see A/C.2/63/SR.25).

7. At the same meeting, the Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the President of the Trade and Development Board responded to a question posed by the representative of Bangladesh (see A/C.2/63/SR.25).